

Message Text

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44

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-05

L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 EB-07 COME-00 OMB-01 TRSE-00 CIEP-01 STR-01

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R 211515Z NOV 74

FM AMEMBASSY SANTO DOMINGO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2086

INFO AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

AMEMBASSY CARACAS

AMEMBASSY MEXICO CITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L SANTO DOMINGO 4789

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OCON, OAS, DR

SUBJECT: DOMINICAN REACTIONS TO QUITO MFM

REF : STATE 252031

1. UPON RETURN FROM QUITO, FONMIN GOMEZ BERGES USED MEDIA TO EXPLAIN GODR POSITION IN FAVOR OF LIFTING CUBAN SANCTIONS AND TOOK THE OCCASION TO PRAISE US DEL PERFORMANCE. "US ACTED WITH GREAT INTELLIGENCE" BY DECLINING TO SHOW ITS INCLINATIONS DURING DEBATE. REBUTTING NEWSMAN'S SUGGESTION THAT QUITO MFM HAD WEAKENED OAS, FONMIN SAID THE OPPOSITE WAS TRUE. BECAUSE EACH COUNTRY FREELY STATED ITS OWN OPINIONS AND ACTED INDEPENDENTLY, OAS WAS STRENGTHENED.

2. AMB. VICIOSO SOTO (MEMBER OF DELEGATION AND CHIEF OF JURIDICAL SECTION IN FONOFF) SAID US DEL HAD BEEN "MAGNIFICENT." IT IS HIS OPINION THAT CANDOR AND SINCERITY OF THE DELEGATIONS OPPOSED TO LIFTING OF SANCTIONS WAS MADE POSSIBLE BY US DETERMINATION TO WITHHOLD ITS INFLUENCE. THIS EVIDENT SINCERITY IMPRESSED EVEN THOSE DELEGATIONS MOST
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RESOLUTELY COMMITTED TO THE CUBAN CAUSE. HE TRACES SOME OF

COLUMBIA'S AND VENEZUELA'S POST-MFM CAUTION IN RESTORING RELATIONS WITH CUBA TO THE SOBERING WEIGHT OF STATEMENTS MADE BY OPPONENTS AT QUITO. VICIOSO SOTO GIVES LITTLE CHANCE TO ANY ATTEMPT TO CREATE AN OAS WITHOUT USG, BELIEVING THAT MAIN USEFULNESS OF PRESENT ORGANIZATION IS IN BRINGING LATIN AMERICANS INTO DIRECT CONTACT WITH USG. HE THINKS FEW LA COUNTRIES WILL SUPPORT IDEA.

3. PRESS REACTIONS TO US ABSTENTION AND WHOLE QUITO MFM WERE SUBDUED. ONLY OUTSPOKEN, LEFTIST-ORIENTED EL NACIONAL WAS SHARPLY CRITICAL SAYING MFM HAD MISSED OPPORTUNITY AT QUITO TO EXPEL US FOR ITS CIA INTERVENTION IN CHILE. CONSERVATIVE ELEMENTS THOUGHT US HAD DONE RIGHT THING WHILE COLUMNISTS AND POLITICAL GROUPINGS OF ANTI-US PERSUASION WERE, OF COURSE, CRITICAL. IN RECENT CONTACT, SENIOR NAVY OFFICERS VOLUNTEERED TO DAO THEIR PRAISE OF US STAND AND GRATIFICATION AT OUTCOME OF QUITO MEETING.

4. ONE OF INTERESTING BY-PRODUCTS IS ENTIRELY DOMESTIC. THIS WAS ONE OF FEW OCCASIONS WHEN GODR SHOWED NO ATTACHMENT TO US ON ISSUE OF REGIONAL IMPORTANCE. LEFT-WING PRESS AND POLITICAL PARTIES HERE FOUND THEMSELVES IN DISCONCERTING POSITION OF BEING POWERLESS TO ATTACK BALAGUER GOVERNMENT ON USUAL GROUNDS OF SUBSERVIENCE TO YANKEE IMPERIALISM. HURWITCH

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